

THE SUN FLOWER STATE.

The Colored Farmers, of Missouri, a Factor.—A Master Mind in the Work at Lincoln Institute. Prof. Boten's Interesting Letter.—News Notes.

JEFFERSON, Mo., Special.—"The Colored farmers of Missouri" are words heard in one connection or the other nowadays. The words are an appellation for all in one. Not until November 6, 1902 were the colored farmers grouped under this head. Then it was when President B. F. Allen of Lincoln Institute organized the Farmers Convention here. Then it was when men who represent all kind of work with the hands met. I wonder why it was not called a workers convention. My query was answered by the presence of an overwhelming majority of farmers. Since then a great part of the farming lands of Missouri have been watered profusely, yea, even the farmers markets have been "watered"; for the floods were mighty at Kansas City, St. Louis and various less important places. It is easy to take it that this abundance of rainfall was to the first farmer's Convention what an evening



PRESIDENT J. S. MOTEN.

shower is to newly set plants. On November 7, 1903, the cover of time—one year—was taken off and to those present there appeared the second "Farmer's Convention," with new branches, and hearty growth.

President Allen harbors the thought that he who is really a teacher must suggest to young minds their thought-matter, and that the man who would lead among the people must father thought and distribute them among the people that they may make them their own. Children will think and adults must think and he who can furnish the things about which they will and must think is a *master of minds* if we do not grant that he is a *master mind*. This Dr. Allen has done. Those who believe in the higher education, those who advocate identical education for all races, those who have never seen a farm except as a distant view from the window of a fast-flying train, all alike, were thinking and talking "Farming and kindred pursuits." Students from the same county with each other and those from the same state with each other got together, decided on colors for their county, for their state, (for there are many states represented here) made banners on which were inscribed the name of the county, etc., and yelled yells for their "native heaths." Many had gathered valuable information as to the quali-

ties and varieties of products yielded per acre. The thoughts of all were, as I have said "farming and kindred pursuits."

For the last two months previous, every one here had been thinking Art and Artists including painters and paintings, musicians and musical compositions, sculptors and sculpture. These have been the subjects of the presidents morning talks for this period of time. Yes, Raphael and the Madonnas; Millet and Angelus; Handel and the Messiah; Hayden and the Venus of Milo have been among us. Some renewed old acquaintances with them, others met them for the first time. But like a ghost they banished as the approaching shadows of the "workers" announced their coming.

The discussion of most of the subjects have produced, for a time at least, this effect: The city boys and girls have been enabled to see how they can live in the country without losing dignity or social rank. And now, with the aid of telephones and rural mail systems, good papers and magazines, they can build pure cities beneath the shades of their yard trees and yet be in touch with the rest of the world.

I copy the following from one of the local dailies:

"IS IN GOOD SHAPE."

"Lincoln Institute, the State School for Colored Youths, Declared to Be Doing Splendid Work."

"State Superintendent of Public Schools, W. T. Carrington, paid a visit to Lincoln Institute, the State School for Colored Youths, Tuesday morning, and upon his return declared himself gratified at the evidence he found there of the thorough work being done at the school. He said it was in better condition than for several years, if not better than ever before, and that the faculty and pupils were working harmoniously together. He expressed particular satisfaction with the progress which is being made in the industrial department of the school, and gave it hearty words of encouragement."

What is said of the success of Lincoln Institute is said of the man who makes possible such success. What is said of the "farmers convention," of its mission, of results already obtained, is said of him who conceived the idea and materialized it.

A friend drove with me by the "main building" in this same campus and pointed to an exterior decoration on the front thereof—the Phoenix—An incident appropos; the old main building was burned and the present magnificent one is erected upon the same spot. When my friend rehearsed the fact that the Phoenix is the mythical bird which, when she had served her time, built a funeral pyre, set it ablaze and was consumed and from the ashes of the old sprang a young Phoenix of longer life and greater usefulness, I say when my friend tells me this and that so has a new Institution sprung from the ashes of the old; he tells me that anew man has taken the place of the old. New, young, of great power, greater usefulness. To separate the history of any event from the biography of the man who was the principle in the history-making is to obliterate

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TO THE

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